



The San Diego Union-Tribune

\$2.77
PLUS TAX

SUNDAY

SPORTS



HOSMER, PADRES AGREE TO TERMS

The team and free agent first baseman Eric Hosmer have made a deal. Terms were not available, but it will be the largest salary commitment in team history. See D1.

QUALCOMM SEEKS NXP ACQUISITION TO FIGHT OFF BROADCOM

Chinese regulators only agency that has not approved the purchase

BY MIKE FREEMAN

Qualcomm may be running out of time to escape the clutches of Broadcom.

A key cog in the growth story that Qualcomm has been pitching to beleaguered stockholders centers on its long delayed, \$38 billion acquisition of Dutch chip maker NXP Semiconductors.

Not only would NXP instantly boost Qualcomm's profits, it also would diversify its business beyond a slowing smartphone market and into the fast-growing automotive technologies. Securing NXP also could be Qualcomm's best bet to remain an independent company.

But after 15 months, Qualcomm still hasn't received regulatory approval from China to buy NXP — its last remaining regulatory roadblock. Eight other global competition agencies have already approved the deal.

"If I had to judge it today, I would say there is probably an 85 percent or higher likelihood that the (Broadcom) deal is going to pass," said Jim McGregor, principal analyst for technology consulting firm Tirias Research. "But if the NXP deal closes, it brings it down to a 50-50 shot."

Qualcomm and Broadcom met Wednesday for the first time after Broadcom Chief Executive Hock Tan raised his hostile takeover offer for Qualcomm from \$70 per share to \$82 per share on Feb. 5.

The stakes are high for San Diego. Qualcomm is one of only two Fortune 500 companies in town. It employs 33,000 workers globally and an estimated 13,000 locally.

SEE QUALCOMM • A16

ADVISER: MEDDLING INCONTROVERTIBLE

McMaster rejects idea of hoax; Russia calls indictment 'blabber'

BY DESMOND BUTLER & DAVID RISING

President Donald Trump's national security adviser said Saturday there was "incontrovertible" evidence of a Russian plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election, a blunt statement that shows how significantly the new criminal charges leveled by an American investigator have upended the political debate over his inquiry.

The statement by H.R. McMaster at the Munich Security Conference stood in stark contrast to Trump's oft repeated claim that Russian interference in his election victory was a hoax.

"As you can see with the FBI indictment, the evidence is now really incontrovertible and available in the public domain," McMaster told a Russian delegate to the conference.

The detailed document presented the most compelling public evidence to date that the Russian operation was elaborate, expensive and real. Citing emails and conversations by the perpetrators of the plot, it also demon-



SVEN HOPPE AP

H.R. McMaster says there's no doubt Russians meddled.

strated that the ongoing probe may have access to explosive intelligence material gathered on the Russian operations.

McMaster also noted that special counsel Robert Mueller's team had shown that the U.S. was becoming "more and more adept at tracing the origins of this espionage and subversion."

Just minutes before, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had dismissed the indictment as "just blabber."

"I have no response," Lavrov said when asked for comment on the allegations. "You can publish anything, and we see those indictments multiplying, the statements multiplying."

But Lavrov did not say what he specifically disputed in the indictment. SEE RUSSIA • A6

A CALL FOR ACTION



RHONA WISE AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Protesters hold signs at a rally for gun control at the Broward County Federal Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Saturday, days after 17 people were killed in a shooting at a high school in nearby Parkland. See story on A5.

'CHAIN MIGRATION' VS. THE LIMITS OF U.S. SYSTEM

Trump says sponsorship of distant relatives 'unlimited,' but rules prioritize and restrict how families reunify

BY KATE MORRISSEY

President Donald Trump has said he wants to get rid of "chain migration," referring to the ability to sponsor green cards for certain family members.

"Under the current, broken system, a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives," Trump said in his recent State of the Union address.

Many fact-checking institutions have characterized that statement as misleading.

Under current law, U.S. citizens can sponsor their spouses, children, parents and siblings, with some caveats based on age and marital status. Green card holders can sponsor their spouses

and their unmarried children.

No one can directly sponsor more distant relationships like aunts and uncles, grandparents or cousins.

In his address, Trump asked Congress to restrict immigrating relatives to spouses and minor children. As Congress last week debated potential legislation that would offer long-term protection to unauthorized immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, Trump said he would support only immigration bills that included that restructuring of the family-sponsored visa program, among other requirements.

Hilda Carrillo, a 53-year-old from Tijuana, still remembers the exact date her green card arrived

SEE 'CHAIN' • A16



NANCEE E. LEWIS

Filipe Botelho de Souza, 28, is a former DACA recipient who temporarily returned to Brazil because of a family illness, and later secured a green card through his wife, a U.S. citizen.

IN DEPTH

Charging drug dealers in deaths

As opioid crisis rages, prosecutors sending message by going after sellers involved in fatal ODs

BY KRISTINA DAVIS

It had taken almost year of sobriety, but that glow that had been dimmed by years of heroin abuse had come back into Kyle Rodriguez's eyes.

"A spark," his mother recalled, "like he's realizing he could do a lot more." At 23, he had a steady job, a girlfriend he was talking about marrying and a rekindled relationship with his father that had been splintered by smack.

It makes his heroin overdose death all the more maddening, his family says.

On Feb. 17, 2017 — one year ago Saturday — Rodriguez was found collapsed in the bathroom of his parents' Ramona home, surrounded by pieces of foil, a plastic straw and a lighter.

"What made him use that night, I

544

The number of people who died of unintentional drug and alcohol overdoses in San Diego County in 2016

have no idea," said his mother, Sheila Scruggs-Rodriguez. "I ask myself why, why, why?"

Prosecutors don't know why, but they say they know who.

Maxwell Joseph Gaffney, a pal from Rodriguez's school days, is accused of selling the fatal dose and has been charged in San Diego federal court

with distribution of heroin causing death. The felony carries a mandatory sentence of at least 20 years in prison.

It is a rare case in San Diego, but many more are expected to be heard in local courtrooms in the near future as the opioid crisis continues to grip the nation and the justice system seeks to hold dealers accountable for the scores of deaths.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and District Attorney's Office are putting together a countywide task force to evaluate each overdose death to determine what types of charges can be brought against distributors.

"We want to send a message to drug dealers — if you sell drugs and the user dies from those drugs, you will be prosecuted," said Interim U.S. Attorney

SEE DRUGS • A17

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U-T INDEX

Books	E7	Movies	A26
Dividends	C3	Television	E6
Lottery	A2	Weather	A18

In Local:	In U-T Offers:
Editorials	Crossword
Obituaries	Dear Abby

